

Listing of Claims:

1 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment of a plurality of information signals, comprising digital signals, entering said environment and being transmitted according to different standards, comprising means (1, 4, 14', 19) for receiving said digital signals, means (2, 5, 7) for the amplification and the standard frequency conversion of said digital signals, means (3) for mixing said information signals on a distribution network (8) to a plurality of signal sockets (9), at least a part of said digital signals being reserved to predetermined signal sockets (9) among said plurality, characterized in that wherein, for each of said predetermined signal socket (9), the system provides further means (13, 14, 20) for frequency converting one or more of the received reserved digital signals in reserved frequency portions (S1), or personal channels, of the band, said personal channels being reserved to the corresponding predetermined signal sockets (9), and forbidden to the remaining sockets (9) through means (15, 16) for allowing access to said personal channels (S1) of the band only to the corresponding signal sockets (9), said means (13, 14, 20) for frequency converting one or more of the received digital signals in personal channels (S1) of the band being commanded through respective user control means (11, 17, 18; 40; 51).

2 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 1, characterized in that wherein said means (13, 14, 20) for frequency

converting one or more of the received digital signals in personal channels (S1) of the band make use of the same type of modulation (QAM) for each socket (9).

3 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 1, characterized in thatwherein the distribution network (8) of the information signals comprise a distribution support (8) realized by means of a coaxial cable.

4 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 1, characterized in thatwherein the distribution network (8) for the distribution of said information signals comprise MMDS and/or LMDS networks.

5 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 1, characterized in thatwherein said personal channel is 8 MHz wide.

6 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 1, characterized in thatwherein the digital signal being present in said personal channel is QAM modulated.

7 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 1, characterized in thatwherein said personal channel is contained in a frequency band being comprised between 47 to 862 MHz.

8 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 7,

~~characterized in thatwherein~~ said frequency band ranges preferably from 230 to 445 MHz.

9 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 1, ~~characterized in thatwherein~~ the means (15, 16) for allowing access to said personal channels (S1) comprises means (15,16) for filtering the personal channel, that are located upstream the signal socket (9).

10 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 1, ~~characterized in thatwherein~~ said filtering means (15, 16) comprises a band-stop filter (15), apt to eliminate the reception of the personal channels, by a receiver (18) through the signal socket (9).

11 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 10, ~~characterized in thatwherein~~ said filtering means (15, 16) further comprises, in correspondence of a predetermined signal socket (9), a channel-pass filter (16) is arranged in parallel to said band-stop filter (15), which is apt to let the personal channel pass through to the single user.

12 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 1, ~~characterized in thatwherein~~ the selection of the digital signal to be converted in said personal channel is performed by a return-channel.

13 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 12, ~~characterized in thatwherein~~ said return-channel is FSK modulated.

14 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 12, ~~characterized in thatwherein~~ said return-channel is PSK modulated.

15 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 12, ~~characterized in thatwherein~~ said return-channel is QPSK modulated.

16 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 12, ~~characterized in thatwherein~~ said return channel is QAM modulated.

17 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 12, ~~characterized in thatwherein~~ said return channel is bi-directional under TDMA procedure.

18 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 12, ~~characterized in thatwherein~~ said return channel has a band width of 128 KHz or multiples of it.

19 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 12, ~~characterized in thatwherein~~ said return channel is comprised between 41 and 46.5 MHz.

20 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 12,

~~characterized in that~~wherein said return channel uses the same coaxial cable of distribution network (8) of the system.

21 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the return channel used by a user is not accessible to all other users of the system.

22 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said return-channel is radiofrequency irradiated.

23 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the means (13, 14, 20) for frequency converting one or more of the received reserved digital signals in reserved frequency portions (S1), or personal channels, of the band are obtained by means of a transmodulator (13,20;29;41,42,43,44).

24 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein a user terminal (17) and an IRD receiver-decoder (18;40;51) are provided at the signal socket (9), which can be operated by a same remote-control (11).

25 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein two or more means (13, 14, 20) for frequency converting one or more of the received digital signals in personal channels (S1) (13,14,20) are contained in a sole transmodulator device (29).

26 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 25, characterized in thatwherein said sole transmodulator device (29) comprises tuner means (30,32,34), which are apt to perform the selection of said digital signals within at least two frequency ranges, and demodulation means (31,33,35), which are apt to demodulate at least two of said digital signals transmitted with different standards.

27 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 26, characterized in thatwherein said transmodulator device (29) includes at least two tuners (30,32,34) for the selection of digital signals, and at least two demodulators (31,33,35) of said digital signals.

28 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 26, characterized in thatwherein said transmodulator device (29) also includes a commutator (36) apt for receiving the digital signals coming from said demodulators (31,33,35).

29 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 27, characterized in thatwherein said transmodulator device (29) also comprises a modulator (37) for remodulating the output signal of the commutator (36).

30 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 27, characterized in thatwherein said transmodulator device (29) also

includes a converter (38) for converting in frequency the output signal of said modulator (37) into a personal channel.

31. A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 1, ~~characterized in thatwherein~~ said user control means (11,17,18;40) are also apt to generate one or more digital signals in transmission or upstream signals (US) and convert them in frequency into the personal channel, and that second selection and handling means (41,43) are provided for said digital signals in transmission, and means (4,14') for the transmission of said upstream signals (US) from satellite and/or by cable.

32 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 31, ~~characterized in thatwherein~~ transmodulator means (42,44) and the second selection means (41,43) operate on the received downstream signals (DS) or on upstream signals (US) QAM modulated under SCPC procedure, respectively.

33 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 31, ~~characterized in thatwherein~~ said personal channel which can be accessed by said user only is used under FDMA procedure, i.e. the upstream signals (US) and downstream signals (DS) are simultaneously present in said personal channel.

34 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 33, ~~characterized in thatwherein~~ in said personal channel both the

upstream signals (US) and the downstream signals (DS) occupy not overlapping frequency bands.

35 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 31, characterized in thatwherein the personal channel is used under TDMA procedure, i.e. both the upstream signals (US) and the downstream signals (DS) are not simultaneously present in the personal channel.

36 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 31, characterized in thatwherein said transmodulator means (42,44) and said second selection and handling means (41,43) are comprised in a single container.

37 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 1, characterized in thatwherein the user control means (11, 17, 18; 40; 51) comprise a receiver (51) apt to perform an access function to a plurality of conditioned access services, by reading the information contained in a smart card (52), and that that said information contained in said smart card (52) control the means (13, 14, 20) for frequency converting one or more of the received reserved digital signals in the personal channel.

38 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 37, characterized in thatwherein said information contained in the smart card (52) comprise information for tuning transmodulator means (13,14,20;29;41,42,43,44).

39 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 37, characterized in thatwherein said information contained in the smart card (52) comprise information for the tuning of transponder preselection means (12).

40 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 40, characterized in thatwherein the information for the tuning of the transponder preselection means (12) are selection information of the bands of the channels to be tuned.

41 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 38, characterized in thatwherein information for the tuning of the transponder preselection means (12) are information for determining the polarization of the channels to be tuned.

42 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 38, characterized in thatwherein said information contained in the smart card (52) comprise frequencies information of the channels to be tuned.

43 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 37, characterized in thatwherein said information contained in the smart card (52) also comprise frequency information of said personal channel.

44 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 37,

~~characterized in thatwherein~~ the selection means (12, 13, 14, 20; 29; 41, 42, 43, 44) and the smart card (52) contain respective electronic keys, whose congruence enables the operation of said distribution system of a plurality of signals to a condominium and/or community environment.

45 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 37, ~~characterized in thatwherein~~ the control means (51) contain a device for writing data in a program memory of a microprocessor contained in the smart card (52).

46 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 45, ~~characterized in thatwherein~~ said program memory is an EEPROM type memory.

47 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 45, ~~characterized in thatwherein~~ the device for writing data in a program memory of a microprocessor contained in the smart card (52) operates on data sent to the control means (51) by modem.

48 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 45, ~~characterized in thatwherein~~ said device for writing data in a program memory of a microprocessor contained in the smart card (52) operates on data sent to the control means (51) by means of the Service Information contained in the received digital signal.

49 (currently amended). A system for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, according to claim 1,

~~characterized in that~~wherein said means (15, 16) for allowing access to said personal channels (S1) are apt to prevent the passage of signals generated inside a further distribution network associated to a signal socket (9), in particular being inside a dwelling or flat.

50 (currently amended). Method for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, of a plurality of information signals, including digital signals, at least some of digital signals being reserved to predetermined signal socket in the environment, comprising the steps of:

- receiving said information signals, comprising digital signals;
- operating a frequency conversion of the received digital signals;
- mixing said digital signals on a distribution network (8) that distribute said digital signals to the sockets (9)
- controlling the digital signals received by a specific socket (9) through remote control means

~~characterized in that~~wherein

the step of operating the frequency conversion of the received digital signals comprises the step of operating the frequency conversion of each reserved digital signal required by a specific socket in a reserved frequency portion (S1), or personal channels, that is exclusively associated with a socket, and in that the steps of controlling the digital signals comprises the step of remote controlling the operation of frequency conversion of each reserved digital signal required by a specific socket in a reserved

frequency portion (S1), for the purpose of selecting the content of said reserved frequency portion (S1).

51 (currently amended). Method for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, of a plurality of information signals according to claim 50, ~~characterized in that further provides comprising~~ the step of operating a frequency selection in the frequency portion of each personal channel (S1), between the distribution network (8) and a receiver (18) associated to the respective personal channel (S1).

52 (currently amended). Method for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, of a plurality of information signals according to claim 51, ~~characterized in that further provides comprising~~ the step of frequency filtering the frequency portions associated to the personal channels (S1) between the distribution network (8) and a receiver (18).

53 (currently amended). Method for the distribution to a condominium and/or community environment, of a plurality of information signals according to claim 51, ~~characterized in thatwherein~~ the step of operating the frequency conversion of each reserved digital signal required by a specific socket in a reserved frequency portion (S1), or personal channels, converts said reserved digital signals in unique type of modulation (QAM).